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002 2700 #238545 11/16/00 KRAUKE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Masahiro NAKATA et al.

Group Art Unit : 2851

Appl. No : 09/475,664 (Division of Serial No. 08/932,197)

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : December 30, 1999

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

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In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 5,612,761, to NAKATA, issued on March 18, 1997;

U.S. Patent No. 5,844,231, to SUZUKI et al., issued on December 1, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,856,663, to SUZUKI et al., issued on January 5, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,856,664, to SUZUKI et al., issued on January 5, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,872,661, to SUZUKI et al., issued on February 16, 1999; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,909,597, to HASUSHITA, issued on June 1, 1999.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite these documents.

Copies of the above-noted U.S. patents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the

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appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants further call the following documents to the Examiner's attention, which were either submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement, or were cited by the Examiner in parent application Ser. No. 08/932,197, from which the present application is a divisional application under 35 U.S.C. §120.

U.S. Patent No. 4,882,601, to TANIGUCHI et al., issued on November 21, 1989;

U.S. Patent No. 4,994,843 to KITAZAWA, issued on February 19, 1991;

U.S. Patent No. 5,144,357, to ISHIDA et al., issued on September 1, 1992;

U.S. Patent No. 5,151,583, to TOKUNAGA et al., issued on September 29, 1992;

U.S. Patent No. 5,189,465, to AKASHI et al., issued on February 23, 1993;

U.S. Patent No. 5,311,241, to AKASHI et al., issued on May 10, 1994;

U.S. Patent No. 5,397,887, to SENSUI, issued on March 14, 1995;

U.S. Patent No. 5,585,882, to AKASHI, issued on December 17, 1996;

U.S. Patent No. 5,845,155 to NAKATA et al., issued on June 22, 1998.

Applicants note that copies of the documents cited in the parent application were either submitted with Information Disclosure Statement filed therein, or were supplied by the Examiner. Accordingly, pursuant to the procedure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), the

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Examiner is invited to review and consider these documents in the parent application.

For the convenience of the Examiner, the above-noted documents cited in the parent application are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. The Examiner is requested to initial the Form PTO-1449 in the appropriate spaces to indicate consideration of each of the documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 08/965,026;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/351,624;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/404,532; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/475,665.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a) (iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are not attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to review the file wrappers of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Of course, if for any reason the Examiner cannot locate any of the applications, Applicants will provide any requested materials, if possible.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Masahiro NAKATA et al.

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March 30, 2000
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